

with the present application on October 10, 2000. Applicants are now filing an English language translation of JP 11-290356.

As the priority date for the present application predates the filing date of Yamazaki '887, Yamazaki '887 is not prior art to the present application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants filed an information disclosure statement (IDS) on November 8, 2005. Applicants are submitting a Notice of Related Applications herewith. Each of the applications/patents listed in the Notice of Related Applications is also listed in the 11-8-05 IDS. It is respectfully requested that this IDS and Notice of Related Applications be entered and considered prior to the issuance of any further action for this application.

Conclusion

As Applicants are not changing the scope of the claims but showing why the claims are patentable over the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that this response be entered.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any fee should be due for this response, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Date: December 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Murphy", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark J. Murphy

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